

# 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

## DENVER WATER'S GROSS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT

This report highlights key accomplishments and provides a look ahead for planned activities in 2026.

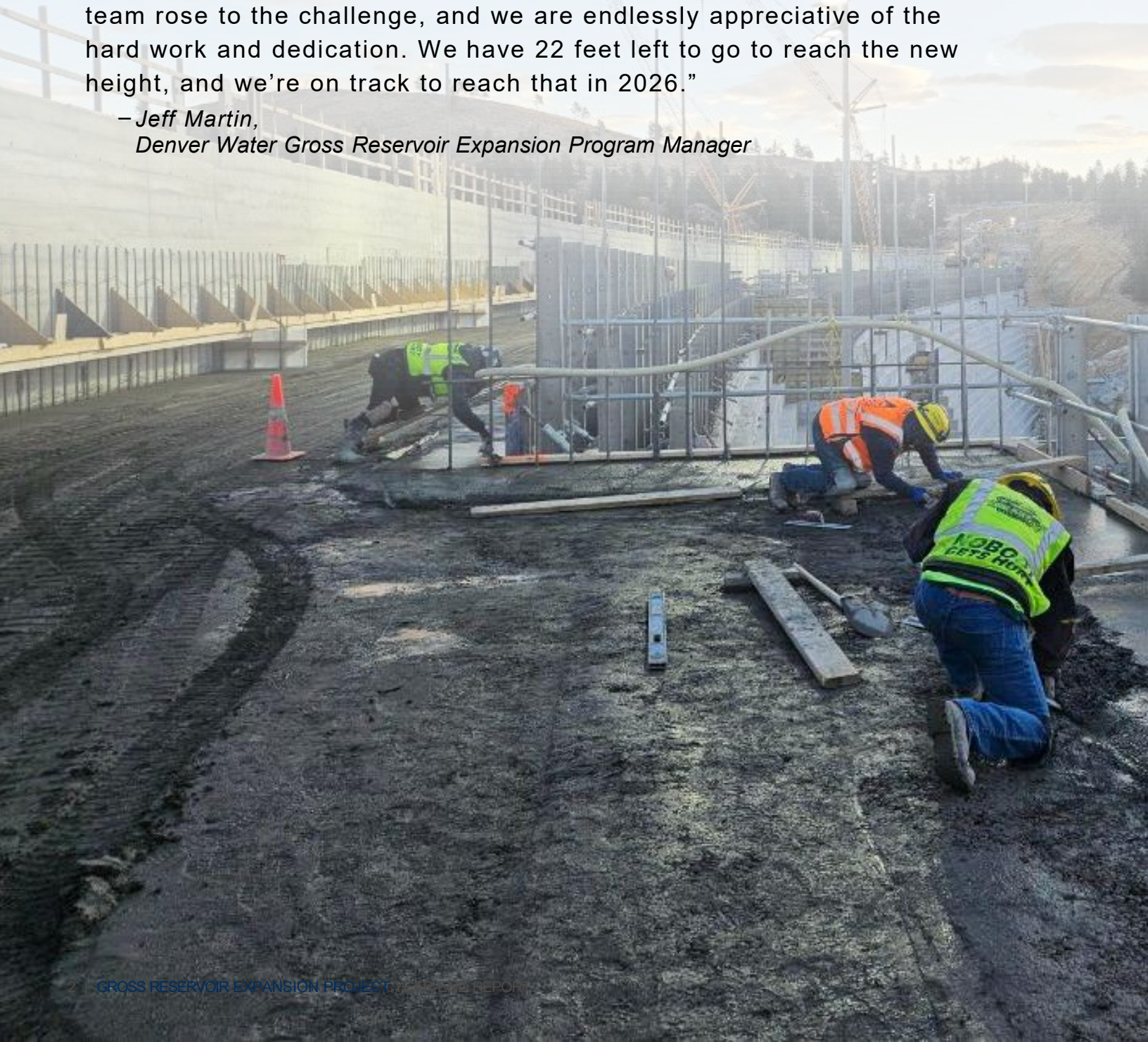
---

# 2025 OVERVIEW

---

“In 2025, we raised the height of the dam by 109 feet above the original structure. This season was a huge success, and our team met a ton of challenges in raising Gross Dam. We had legal challenges and adverse weather challenges. We also had to navigate power supply interruptions under Xcel's new Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Despite these setbacks, our team rose to the challenge, and we are endlessly appreciative of the hard work and dedication. We have 22 feet left to go to reach the new height, and we're on track to reach that in 2026.”

– Jeff Martin,  
Denver Water Gross Reservoir Expansion Program Manager



# 2025 IN REVIEW



## ROLLER-COMPACTED CONCRETE

We continued using roller-compacted concrete (RCC) to raise the dam. RCC is a mixture of water, cement, fly ash and rock. The water comes from the reservoir, and the rock is directly sourced from our on-site quarry. In 2025, we quarried all the rock needed to complete the dam raise.

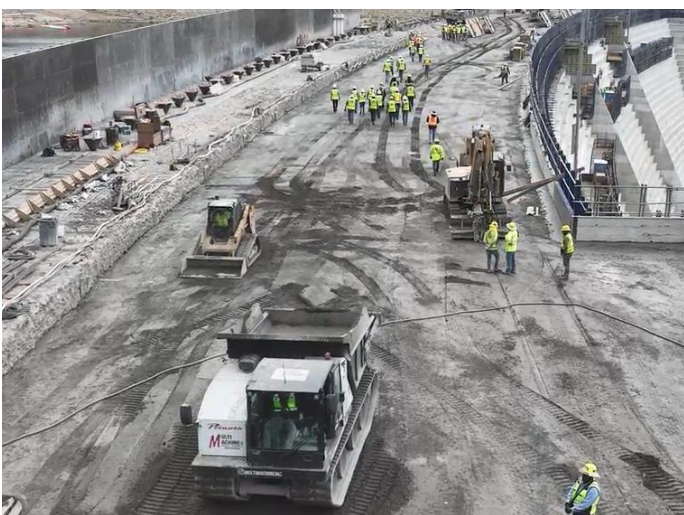
Learn more about [raising a dam with RCC on our website](#).

## BEGINNING THE 2025 RCC SEASON

The 2025 RCC season began with the new dam at 269 feet, just 71 feet below the original crest, and 202 feet from the new final height.

Starting the season at 60% complete meant we still had a lot of RCC to place to meet year-end goals.

For background, read our article about [the 2024 RCC season](#).



## WORKED 825,347 HOURS

825,347 hours worked in 2025 between on-site labor, inspectors and project and construction staff.

Nearly 2.2 million hours have been worked since construction began. In total, we are expecting over 2.5 million workforce hours when the project is complete.

# OUR FIGHT FOR THE PROJECT

On April 3, 2025, U.S. District Court Judge Christine Arguello for the District of Colorado, issued a ruling in a seven-year case that halted construction on the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project. In the weeks following, the courts granted two stays on that order, allowing construction to temporarily continue while the case proceeded. On May 29, Judge Arguello vacated the preliminary injunction that stopped construction, and we were cleared to move forward with raising the dam. However, the appeal process will continue into 2026 for the remaining injunction tied to filling the expanded reservoir and the associated tree removal.



## GROSS RESERVOIR PROJECT SUPPORTED BY STATE'S LEADERS

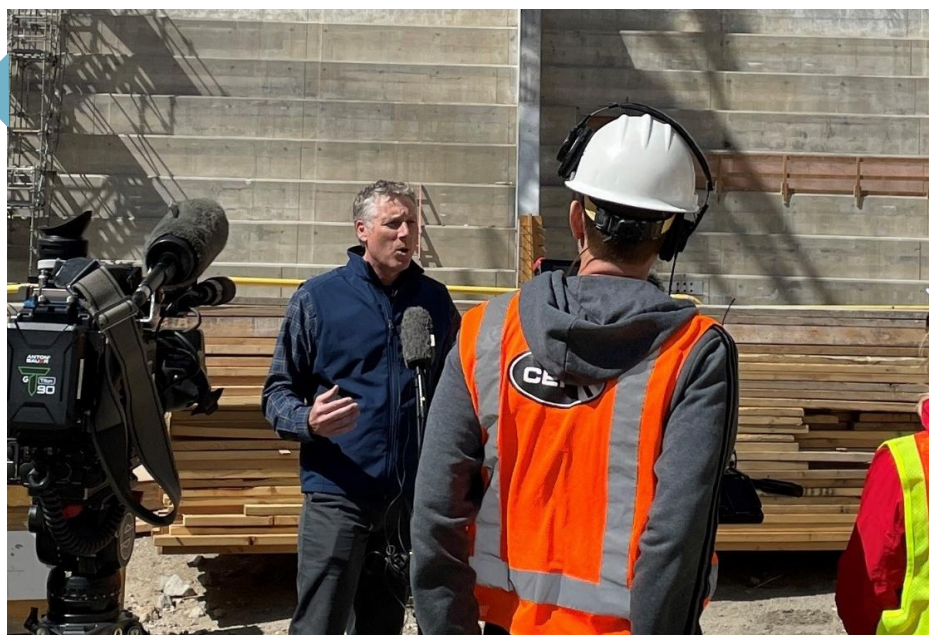
Throughout the years leading up to construction, Denver Water worked with Colorado leaders — including environmental advocates and water experts — and secured broad support for the expansion project.

More details, including statement from those leaders, can be found in our [related article](#).

## WHAT WAS AT STAKE?

Halting construction created serious risks for the project and for dam safety.

To learn more about those risks and Denver Water's response, visit our article summarizing [Jeff Martin's media briefing](#).



# OUR FIGHT FOR THE PROJECT



## GROSS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT GAINS SUPPORT

As court proceedings continued through the spring, additional Denver and Colorado leaders, such as Governor Jared Polis and Denver Mayor Mike Johnston, voiced their support for the project.

Their statements and perspectives are included in our article about [community and leadership backing](#).

## THE PROJECT CONTINUES

On May 6, the court held a hearing to discuss safety concerns following the April 3 injunction ruling. Later, on May 29, the court removed the preliminary injunction, allowing construction of the dam to continue.

Read more about [Denver Water's testimony in our update](#).



---

# WORK COMPLETED IN 2025

---

**Nov 2024**



**Nov 2025**



# WORK COMPLETED IN 2025 (CONT)



## BIG MILESTONE FOR DENVER WATER'S GROSS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT

By the end of June, workers completed 340 vertical feet of RCC placements – reaching the height of the original dam crest. From that point forward, the true dam raise of 131 feet began.

Learn more in our article about [how the project reached this milestone and what construction looks like today.](#)

## GROSS DAM CONSTRUCTION MAKING STEADY PROGRESS

Through a busy summer, the team kept consistent momentum to raise the dam. By Sept. 5, workers had completed 60 vertical feet above the original's crest. This marked 71 feet to go until the new dam is finished.

More details are available in our [progress update.](#)



## GROSS DAM'S SUCCESSFUL YEAR: DAM RAISE 95% COMPLETE

RCC placements wrapped up Nov. 14 as nighttime temperatures dropped consistently below freezing. By the end of the season, we raised the dam to a total height of 449 feet tall, just 22 feet shy of its completed height. While RCC placements are paused for this winter season, construction activities across the site continue.

Read more in our article about [wrapping up the 2025 RCC season.](#)



# WORK COMPLETED IN 2025 (CONT)



## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS CONTINUE

Denver Water completed several key environmental projects years before construction began — a reflection of our responsibility to the natural environment and to the 1.5 million people we serve. These efforts were developed in close coordination with partners and regulatory agencies reviewing and permitting the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project. You can learn more in our [environmental benefits article](#).

## MORE THAN A RESERVOIR

Gross Reservoir is more than a vital resource for Denver Water to provide safe, reliable water to our customers. It also generates clean hydropower through its year-round power plant and offers recreation opportunities for every season.

Even during construction, recreators can enjoy such activities as paddleboarding, picnicking, ice fishing and more.

Explore additional [recreation details on our website](#).



## GROSS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT

**Have questions about the  
Gross Reservoir Expansion  
Project?**

**Come chat!**

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2025, we had nearly 250,000 touchpoints with residents, recreators and others interested in the project. We have dedicated staff who offer in-person meetings, hold open office hours and communicate directly via email, mailers and phone calls, post [TAP articles](#), send [e-newsletters](#) and regular updates to the [Project My Map](#) and [website](#).

For more details on how you can stay in touch, explore our [project website](#).

# WHAT'S COMING IN 2026?



## WORKING INSIDE AND BELOW THE DAM

We will continue mechanical and pipe work inside the dam as well as advance on the stilling basin at the base — a key safety feature which slows water released through the dam's spillway before entering South Boulder Creek.

You can read more about this work in our article about [wrapping up the second season of dam-raising construction](#).

## FINISHING THE DAM

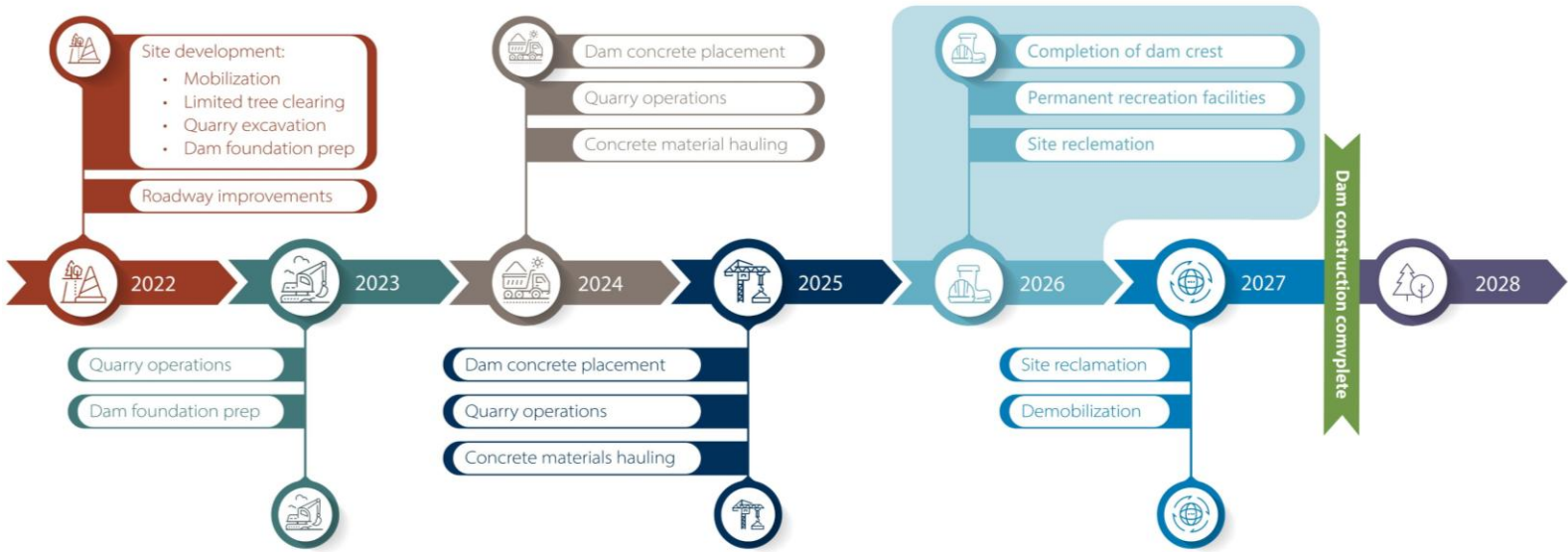
RCC placements are expected to restart in spring 2026, once temperatures are consistently above freezing.

During this season, workers will complete the final 22 feet of the new dam and finish construction on the supporting saddle dam.

The image to the right provides a preview of what the dam will look like at its full height.



# PROJECT TIMELINE & CONTACT



[Sign up for our e-newsletter](#) or check out our [website](#) to get updates and more information on the work going on in 2026!



The [Project My Map](#) is updated Monday-Friday, excluding holidays, with information regarding recreation access, road closures and blasting information.



Please email [grossreservoir@denverwater.org](mailto:grossreservoir@denverwater.org) or call 303-628-6348 with any questions.

